

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Official Action dated February 23, 2005 and this Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the Action.

Claims 1 and 11-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kaplan et al. (USP 6,733,411). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The present invention is a torque transfer assembly where the differential assembly 220 rotates relative to the ring gear assembly 210 as shown in Figure 2. A torque coupling assembly 240 is disposed between the ring gear assembly 210 and the differential assembly 220. The claims recite a “variable pressure relief valve assembly” is adapted to help control the torque coupling assembly 240.

Kaplan et al. ‘411 teaches a limited slip differential assembly where the ring gear and differential assembly are bolted together (see Figure 2 of Kaplan et al. ‘411). Thus, the ring gear cannot rotate relative to the differential assembly set forth in the claimed invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the structural distinction between the torque transfer assembly of this invention and the limited slip differential of Kaplan et al. ‘411.

10/687,710

In re YOSHIOKA, et al.

In view of the above amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define the invention over the prior art of record and notice to that affect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:

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